

**Thursday, March 5, 2009—12:00 noon**

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

**The Rev. Daniel F. Biles, Pastor  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Spring Grove, PA**

***“A Slow Resurrection:  
Rebuilding the Lutheran Church in Russia”***

We are proud to bring you our presenter for March 5: the Rev. Daniel F. Biles. A native of King of Prussia, PA, Pastor Biles graduated from Texas Lutheran College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. An author who has served also as a Chaplain in the Army Reserves, he currently serves his third parish, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Spring Grove, PA since 1999.

Pastor Biles comes to us at the recommendation of the Rev. Dr. Roy Enquist, professor emeritus of Gettysburg Seminary. Our speaker also has served in the following roles: guest lecturer at the Lutheran Seminary in Novosaratovka, Russia from 1997 to 2003; coordinator of the USA Appeal for Lutheran Churches in the Russian Far East from 2002 through the present; manager of Russian choral group “Archiglas” ([www.archiglas.com](http://www.archiglas.com)) from 1999 to 2005; and consultant and trainer for “Healthy Congregations” and “Bridgebuilders” for the ELCA.

We are pleased to bring Pastor Biles to LLF for our March meeting!

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We invite all Lutherans and their friends to join us for this luncheon meeting of **Lutheran Lay Fellowship**, scheduled for the first Thursday of each month from 12:00 noon till 2:00 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive in Silver Spring, one mile south of the Capitol Beltway at Exit 30. Ample off-street parking is available. Interested persons can make reservations for a delicious lunch by calling **Harlan Oelke at 301-545-1910** no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 3**. The cost of the luncheon is \$7.50, payable at the door.

**SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**April 2** Rev. Dax Jordan, Pastor / Developer, Belmont Ridge Church of the Resurrection  
Ashburton, VA: *“Field of Dreams or Dancing with Wolves*

**LUTHERAN LAY FELLOWSHIP  
LUNCHEON MEETING  
February 5, 2009**

Our speaker, Rev. Mark Hricko, gave our opening devotion and prayer.

**Announcements**

Congratulations to our birthday celebrants – **Scott Mills 2/8 and Bill Wegener 2/23.**

**Dolly Yates** was welcomed as a first-time visitor.

President Larry Schmidt reported that 59 persons presently have responded to our 2009-membership letter by sending dues and donations, hopefully with more to come. He also noted that \$5,665 has been generated through the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 1,2,3 Campaign for the Wegener Chaplaincy, 19 of our members participating.

President Schmidt asked for volunteers who would be able to work with him in finding **25 corporate members to serve a 3-year term with Fellowship Square Foundation.** This group of men and women would be presented at the **FSF Annual Meeting on April 18, 2009.**

Ellie Wegener announced that a **LLF brochure** had been designed to help in the promotion of Lutheran Lay Fellowship. The printing will cost at least \$325 and she asked for donations for this project. Ellie, Dan Bella and Fay Coddling would welcome another person to work with them on a Task Force Committee in finding ways to best use these brochures and bring to the forefront the important work of Lutheran Lay Fellowship.

**The Capitol Hill Career Support Group** offers helpful, compassionate and practical sharing to those who are seeking employment. This group meets every Monday evening from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 309 E. St., N. W., Washington, DC 20001. Call (202) 628-2919 for more information.

**Speaker Notes** – *“Moving Experience”*

**The Rev. Mark A. Hriko, pastor of The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, Silver Spring, MD,** spoke about the challenges and blessings he and his congregation have faced and received in their relocation from Georgia Avenue to a site five miles away at New Hampshire Avenue at Norwood Road in Montgomery County.

Last April 6, 2008, the new site was dedicated to the glory of God and in continuation of the more than 65 years of ministry of Jesus Christ of that congregation.

The process to consider relocation began in 1999 when observations were made that their former site was not adequate for their program. As the congregation grew, the infrastructure also grew around them. The leadership talked about whether to start a daughter church or to relocate. After discernment and prayer, the first vote to relocate only passed by 51%. The next vote taken after a plan was presented passed by 76%. Then the leaders were empowered to find a new site and a buyer for their present property. This implementation plan passed by 91% - things take time.

The former site on Georgia Avenue was purchased by the Catholic Archbishop of Washington for a Ministry Center, and fortuitously the Roman Catholic diocese of Washington had 13 acres of land on New Hampshire Avenue. it was willing to sell. Many prayers were said and much stress and bureaucracy endured while waiting 10 months for a building permit. Time is money. Challenges included discerning whose voice they were hearing for divine guidance, renting back the Georgia Avenue property, praying that

they wouldn't be kicked out before their building was ready, and finding a new architect all added to the congregation's stress. They learned about trust, the mission of the church, faith and prayer. The sacrifices and generosity of members during this time and unity experienced by members were some of the blessings received.

Bringing some of the special parts of their former church to their new church home made them feel like they belonged at the new location. It took eight years from end to end to complete the process. The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew continues to be an ethnically and racially diverse congregation (27 different countries, mostly Latin American) that is enthusiastic to the ministry of Jesus Christ. The new site is five miles from their old site but, because of traffic patterns, the commute is less for some members. St. Andrew's continues to operate the Thrift Shop on Georgia Avenue where it is renting back space. The three-mile stretch on New Hampshire Avenue where the church is now located compares to DC's 16<sup>th</sup> Street regarding the proliferation of churches. Members are excited and feel blessed to be doing ministry where they are. We thank God for their ministry among us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Schmidt

### **HELP US SAVE \$\$ AND THE ENVIRONMENT!**

In our attempt to be eco-friendly and save on postage, we'd like to send this newsletter electronically as much as possible. If you're willing to receive our Newsletter by email, please contact the editor, Rev. David Berg at this address: [dgberg@erols.com](mailto:dgberg@erols.com). Put "LLF" in the subject line. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET**

The Executive Committee of LLF will meet again on Thursday, March 5 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room of Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring.

### **WHAT IS THE LUTHERAN LAY FELLOWSHIP?**

*"As early as 1936, feeling there was a definite need for closer cooperation between Lutheran laity and clergy, a group of laymen in the Washington, DC. Metropolitan area, organized to hold meetings that would bring pastors and laity closer together. Due to jurisdictional differences as well as ministerial difficulties, very little success was achieved until the fall of 1941. Then the group met and decided to hold a luncheon once a month, invite their friends and bring visitors. The first luncheon was a success, and within three months every Lutheran judicatory was represented..."* [From a **Lutheran Directory of Metropolitan Washington, DC**, published in 1999.]

Today, more than 70 years later, the Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington takes pride in knowing that every night, 365 nights each year, more than 700 low income seniors and disabled persons live in safety and friendship in four high rises owned and managed by Fellowship Square Foundation, Inc. By means of annual scholarships and grants, LLF also supports various college and seminary students; it also provides ushering services for major inter-Lutheran events. But most of all, LLF is known far and wide as a place to hear stimulating speakers on timely topics and to make friends from other Lutheran congregations—friendships that last for decades!

Won't you join us?